



Norman H. Bangerter
Governor

Dee C. Hansen
Executive Director

Dianne R. Nielson, Ph.D.
Division Director

State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

355 West North Temple
3 Triad Center, Suite 350
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203
801-538-5340

August 21, 1990

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Holland Shepherd, Reclamation Specialist *HOS*

RE: Site Visit, Cameron #1 Project, Native Asphalt Company, S/047/036, Uintah County, Utah

Tony Gallegos and I visited the Cameron #1 site on August 15, 1990. The purpose of the visit was to evaluate the status of the small mining notice. Some problems had been encountered on earlier visits to the site, concerning environmental impacts to a large riparian area located on site.

The operator has increased the size of the disturbance considerably from the original proposal. The pit encompasses, now, an area of approximately 1.5 acres. It averages 10 - 20 feet in depth. A large ore stockpile area has been constructed, encompassing an area of about 2 acres. An area to the north of the ore stockpile, located on a south facing slope, has been scalped and encompasses about 1.5 acres. The operator has scalped another area to the east of the pit, consisting of 1 acre. A small retention pond has been constructed in the stream channel. Bulldozer disturbance in the stream channel/riparian area would encompass another .5 - 1 acre of disturbance. A flat area, used for equipment storage, due east of the stockpile has been scalped and encompasses another .75 acres of disturbance. The total disturbance is approximately 7.5 acres.

The operator's file S/047/036 contains two SMO's submitted in the fall of 1989; one for the Cameron #1 Project, the other for the Native #1 Project. Apparently only the Cameron #1 Project has been worked at this time. John Blake, of State Lands and Forestry rejected a proposal Native Asphalt made on the State property (the Native #1 Project).

A number of noncompliance problems are evident on site: 1) it is not apparent that topsoil salvaging has occurred on site, although areas have been impacted where topsoil did at one time exist; 2) the operator has gone over the 5 acre limit without reporting it to the Division; 3) two man-made ponds exist, having no discharge

Page 2
Native Asphalt Company
S/047/036
August 21, 1990

permits or construction permits from the Bureau of Water Pollution Control (BWPC); 4) surface water degradation is occurring as a result of mining disturbance to a riparian area; 5) the operator has not taken sufficient steps to mitigate impacts to groundwater and surface water quality, and to sensitive riparian areas on the mine site.

The operator has constructed a large pit in a riparian zone on site. The pit has filled up with water, and is currently discharging degraded water. The pit, consisting of saturated tar sand ores, is contributing tar oils to spring and surface waters in the area. The small stream, fed by water discharging from the creek, has become blackened with a dark brown scum, originating from some type of organism (micro-invertebrate) deposition.

The operator has constructed a diversion for much of the undisturbed surface water flowing through the mine site. However, the diversion is make shift, at best, and is insufficient to safeguard undisturbed flow. The diversion channel consists chiefly of a 4" PVC pipe, about 200 feet in length.

The operator has constructed a makeshift dike, presently containing a small pond. The dike is insufficient to contain a large rainfall event. It had several stress fractures already expressed on the top and downstream side. The pond is discharging into the 4" PVC pipe previously discussed. The pond has not been permitted via BWPC, according to file records.

I recommend we send the operator a letter of non-compliance, to be followed by a site visit at a later date. Also, BWPC and Dam Safety should be notified concerning the ponds and water quality issues.

jb
cc: Wayne Hedberg
Tony Gallegos
MNS047036.1







